GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3983
ANSWERED ON:27.03.2017
Elementary Education
Misra Shri Ajay (Teni)

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the children in all the villages of the country including Uttar Pradesh are being provided elementary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and

(c) if not, whether the Government has prepared a scheme for the children who are not going to the school and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA)

(a) and (b): Census 2011 has reported that 8.4 crore children do not go to school in the age group of 5 − 17 years. Under the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009 the mandated age group for free and compulsory elementary education in a neighbourhood school is 6-14 years. According to Census 2011, the number of children who do not attend schools (including never attended and attended before) in the age group of 6-13 years are 3.81 crore. Census 2011 has shown a marked decline in the number of out of school children in this age group from 5.8 crore in 2001 to 3.8 crore in 2011, a 35% decline over a period of ten years. The States and UTs in their Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2016-17 under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan have reported a total of 14.2 lakh children as out of school at the elementary level of schooling as on 31.03.2016.

State/UT-wise details of total enrolment of children at elementary level and Gross Enrolment Ratio at primary and upper primary level is at Annexure.

(c): The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) provides assistance to State Governments and UTs to ensure free and compulsory quality elementary education for all children. Universal enrolment is the first goal of SSA. SSA has provided 2.04 lakh primary and 1.59 lakh upper primary schools for ensuring universal provisioning of schooling facilities. Preference for opening of school is given to tribal areas, and areas with high concentration of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and minority population. In addition, 3609 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, which are residential schools for girls at upper primary level, have also been sanctioned to the States for improving access to marginalised girls particularly out of school, either drop out or never enrolled. As per Unified District Information System for Education, the number of total children enrolled at elementary level has increased from 15.1 crores in 1998-99 to 19.67 crore in 2015-16.

Under SSA, provisions have also been made for residential schools/hostels and transportation/escort facility for children living in sparsely populated areas, children living in areas where schools cannot be opened due to unavailability of land and children in need of care and protection. Special training is also provided to all such children who are school dropouts and long absentees and they are enrolled in "back to school" camps.

Additionally, other strategies adopted under SSA such as strengthening school infrastructure, improving pupil-teacher ratios, providing incentives like free textbooks, uniforms for eligible category of children and mid-day meal in schools have proved to be useful in increasing the enrolment of children in elementary schools.

Since enactment of the RTE Act, 2009, a renewed focus by all States and UTs was given to ensure that every child of the age of 6-14 years is enrolled in schools.

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